MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
DAREDEVIL
OCT '96 357
ALONE AGAINST...
...THE ENFORCERS!
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DIRECT EDITION
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IN THE CASE OF *HYDE VERSUS THE STATE OF NEW YORK*...

...IS DEFENSE READY TO *PROCEED*, MR. NELSON?

I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT *MR. MURDOCK* IS ABSENT. AND WHILE THIS IS A *CLOSED COURTROOM*...

...I HAVE THIS *OLD-FASHIONED IDEA* THAT IT WOULD BE NICE FOR THE *DEFENDANT'S LEAD ATTORNEY* TO BE *PRESENT* AT THE *TRIAL!*

I'M *SORRY*, YOUR HONOR! MATT--I MEAN *MR. MURDOCK*--I'M SURE HE'LL BE ALONG *ANY MINUTE*.

I...*Um*... CAN HANDLE THINGS UNTIL HE IS.

HERE.

IN THE COURTROOM.

WELL, THEN--LET'S METE OUT SOME *JUSTICE*, SHALL WE?

BAILIFF--BRING IN THE *JURY*. EVERYONE MAY BE SEATED.

N-NO NEED TO WORRY, MR. HYDE--MATT DOES THIS ALL THE TIME. HE *LIKES* MAKING *DRAMATIC ENTRANCES*.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD *WORRY*, FAT-BOY! JUST REMEMBER...I GO DOWN, YOU GET *DEAD!*

MUROOCK WON'T BE SO *LUCKY*, OF *COURSE*...MUROOCK'LL *SUFFER!*

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JAMES FELDER – Editor
BOB HARRAS – Chief
THEY CALL ME DAREDEVIL--THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR.
THEY DON'T CALL ME DAREDEVIL--THE MAN WHO FEELS NO PAIN AND CAN'T BE HURT.
WHUMP
THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT.
NNGH!
YA ASK THE HAMMER--THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' LIKE A GOOD WORK-OUT IN THE MORNIN'...
KWUNK
...TO REALLY GET THE BLOOD FLOWIN'!

THOK
CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY WE ARE NOW YOU'RE ONE OF THE ENFORCERS, EEL!
STILL CAN'T QUITE RECKON WHY YOU DISGUISED YOURSELF AS SNAKE MARSTON ALL THAT TIME, THOUGH!
I DIDN'T WANT TO GET IN JUST BECAUSE I WAS THE EEL, MONTANA--I WANTED TO PROVE MYSELF; THE ENFORCERS HAVE QUITE A REP.
YA ASK THE HAMMER--I SAY YA WAS MADE THE SECOND YA KO'D THE DEVIL FOR US!
'COURSE WE WOULDA DONE IT WITHOUT YA, BUT--
NOT THE WAY YOU FIGHT, HAMMER!
GOOD BOXERS PUNCH FROM THE SHOULDER! NO WONDER YOU NEED THOSE... STEEL PLATES!
COULD GIVE YOU A FEW LESSONS... IF YOU LET ME DOWN...
NEVER BE... BATTLIN' JACK MURDOCK, BUT--
HEY! I WAS A CONTENDER! I COULDA--
EASY, HAMMER! OBVIOUSLY DAREDEVIL DOESN'T APPRECIATE YOUR TECHNIQUE THE WAY SOME OF US DO!
LET'S SEE HOW HE LIKES THE KUNG-FU FOOTWORK OF FANCY DAN!
I'D STARTED THE NIGHT BEFORE LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE TO CLEAR HYDE OF THE ONE CRIME HE'D BEEN CHARGED WITH THAT--IN AN OBVIOUS LAPSE--HE DIDN'T COMMIT.
I HADN'T EXACTLY PLANNED TO BE HANGING--SO TO SPEAK--WITH THE ENFORCERS,
BUT JUST BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE...

DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T HAVE FUN.
MOVING MY HEAD OUT OF THE WAY IS EASY.
THE TOUGH PART IS MANEUVERING MY SHOULDER INTO JUST THE
RIGHT
SPOT.
YEEK!
MY VICTORY, HOWEVER, IS AS SHORT-LIVED...
...AS MY LIFE SUDDENLY APPEARS TO BE!
PAIN... PAIN... PAIN...
FANCY DAN? YOU HURT FANCY DAN?
OX HURT YOU!
NO, OX-- DON'T--!
WAP
FEL'S VOICE MAKES OX PULL HIS PUNCH JUST ENOUGH THAT I THINK THERE'S A SLIGHT CHANCE HE WON'T QUITE...
...KILL ME.

--NECK WAS BROKEN, HER LARYNX CRUSHED.
ANGELA PARISH SLOWLY SUFFOCATED IN EXTREME PAIN AT THE CRUEL HANDS OF SOMEONE HER VAST PHYSICAL SUPERIOR.
THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT. I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO DWELL ON THESE GRISLY DETAILS ANY MORE THAN I DO...
...SO COULD YOU TELL THE COURT IF YOU WERE ABLE TO DETERMINE HOW THE ASSAILANT GAINED ENTRY?
YES. ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS WERE NAILED SHUT... EXCEPT ONE. THAT DOOR WAS PADLOCKED, AND THAT PADLOCK WAS SHATTERED--
AND I HAVE A KEY TO THAT LOCK! WHY WOULD I BREAK IT WHEN I HAVE A KEY?
I HEARD SOMETHING, YOU DIMESTORE DETECTIVE.. HEARD SOMETHING INSIDE MY PLACE..!
MR. NELSON-- CONTROL YOUR CLIENT!
YES, YOUR HONOR; I WILL! I CAN!
I HOPE.
EASY, HYDE.. DEEP BREATHS! THINK OF... THINK OF THE OCEAN!
I HATE THE OCEAN!

MATT...YOU'D BETTER GET HERE SOON! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME WITH THIS MANIAC...
"...WHERE THE DEVIL ARE YOU?"
MATT? YOU HERE, MATT?
Hmmm.
WELL, MAYBE HE'S AT HIS PLACE...OR OUT DOING HIS DAREDEVIL THING, OR...
OH, DUH, KAREN! TODAY'S HYDE'S DAY IN COURT--THAT'S WHERE MATT IS!
ALMOST HOPE HE LOSES THIS ONE--HYDE DESERVES TO BE LOCKED UP
GUILTY OR INNOCENT I WAS NEVER TOO THRILLED WITH MATT DEFENDING A KNOWN KILLER LIKE HYDE!
'COURSE, HE MIGHT NOT BE TOO THRILLED WITH WHAT I'M DOING EITHER.
FIRST NIGHT WASN'T BAD, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN KEEP THIS UP... SO EXHAUSTED!
AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MATT HEARS ABOUT PAIGE ANGEL!
DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO THEN... BUT RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO...
...GET SOME...
...SLEEP...

NNEGH!
WAKE UP, DEVIL!
BZZLAT
IS IT 7:30? MY WAKE-UP CALL WAS FOR 7:30...
...HAD THE WORST DREAM THAT I WAS... CAPTURED BY A CRIMINAL MASTERMIND...
GOOD THING IT'S ONLY... YOU...
VERY FUNNY, DEVIL-- BUT NO ONE LAUGHS AT THE EEL FOR LONG!
YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU CROSSED MY PATH... JUST AS SORRY AS HYDE IS!
TZEK
WHAT...?
O...OF COURSE! YOU'RE A CONTORTIONIST--YOUR COSTUME'S SILICON COATED... YOU SQUEEZED THROUGH THE SECRET ENTRANCE TO HYDE'S WAREHOUSE..
...AND KILLED ANGELA PARISH.
BUT WHY? AND WHY NOT USE YOUR PARTNERS?
WHO-- THE ENFORCERS? YOU'RE MAKING JOKES AGAIN, DEVIL!
THIS WAS BETWEEN HYDE AND ME!
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN... SPARKY... BUT I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE ENFORCERS..
ZNEK

YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE ENFORCERS; THEY THINK THEY'RE PLAYERS...
KLOK
EHHG!
"...BUT THEY'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING MORE THAN HIRED GOONS!
"HYDE KNEW THAT WHEN HE TRIED TO ENLIST THEM...
"...TO MOVE IN ON SOME OF THE EEL'S CAREFULLY LAID PLANS!
"THE FOOL DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS RIGHT THERE-- DISGUISED AS SNAKE MARSTON!
"WE SAID WE WEREN'T INTERESTED... WE WERE OUR OWN BOSSES NOW!
"HE SAID WE HADN'T HEARD THE LAST FROM HIM!
"THE TRUTH WAS HYDE HADN'T HEARD THE LAST FROM ME!
"IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO LEARN ABOUT THE GIRL.
"IN A SNAP, HYDE WAS OUT OF THE WAY OF MY PLANS... AND MY GANG!
AND THE ENFORCERS ARE MINE, DEVIL!
THEY THINK THEY'RE INDEPENDENTS, BUT I'VE BEEN MANIPULATING THEM TO DO WHATEVER I WANT.
THEY'RE JUST TOO STUPID TO REALIZE IT!
REALLY? WELL, I STILL KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THEM YOU DON'T. I'LL JUST SAY THIS...

...YOU BETTER NOT HAVE HURT SNAKE, RIGHT, OX?
WHAT--?
BEEN HERE FOR MOST OF YOUR STORY, YOU SLIMY SIDEWINDER!
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL GET A LITTLE DIFFERENT WORKOUT THAN THE ONE WE CAME FOR, FELLAS.
SNAKE? YOU HURT SNAKE?
OX HURT YOU!!
THE OX IS A LOT LIKE THOSE TOY CARS WITH THE FRICTION MOTORS... YOU REV HIM UP, POINT HIM IN A DIRECTION...
...AND LET HIM LOOSE.
THE EEL'S SLICK ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF OX'S WAY...
...BUT THAT'S WHAT I WAS HOPING HE'D DO...
...JUST LIKE I'M HOPING OX WILL SLAM INTO THE WALL AND SNAP SOME OF MY CHAINS...
THWUM
EHG--!
...WITHOUT TEARING MY ARMS OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS!

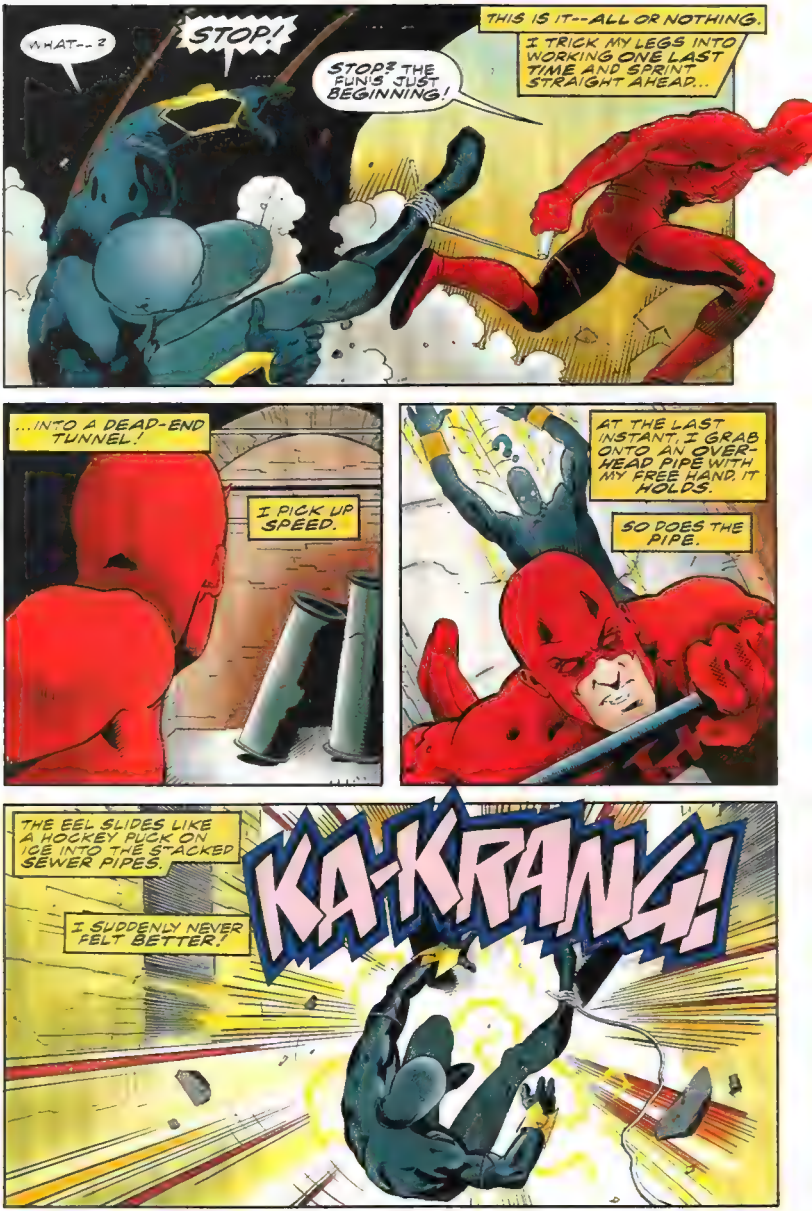
KLOK
ONE HOUR BREAK...
AH, COME TO ME, SWEET THING!
FRANKLIN!
FRANKLIN, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHERE'S MATTHEW?
OH, Um... ROSALIND!
WELL, I THINK MATT'S OUT, Um, CHECKING INTO THAT, Uh, POSSIBLE SECRET ENTRANCE TO HYDE'S WAREHOUSE?
HE'LL BE HERE, Um, SOON...
GOOD LORD, WHAT CAN A BLIND MAN HOPE TO DISCOVER THAT OUR OWN INVESTIGATOR CAN'T?
OF COURSE, I HAVEN'T HEARD BACK FROM THAT MISTY KNIGHT WOMAN, EITHER.
AND YOU SHOULDN'T BE EATING THOSE THINGS
AM I SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE TOTALLY IN-COMPETENT?
NOT, Um, NOT TOTALLY...
THIS CASE IS A FIASCO, FRANKLIN! AS SENIOR PARTNER OF OUR FIRM, I'M WASHING MY HANDS OF IT!
I SUGGEST YOU DO THE SAME!
FIRST CHANCE YOU GET, PLACE FULL BLAME FOR ALL INADEQUATE COUNSEL AT THE FEET OF MATTHEW MURDOCK!

MY ARMS ON FIRE THE REST OF ME FEELS WORSE.
A SHARP PAIN IN MY SHOULDER SAYS I'M ALIVE. I REMIND MYSELF THAT'S A GOOD THING.
I CONSIDER PASSING OUT AGAIN, BUT IT WOULD TAKE TOO MUCH EFFORT.
I FOCUS ON THE POUNDING IN MY HEAD..
...ONTO THE POUNDING THE EEL'S GIVING THE ENFORCERS
TWO DOWN...
KLAKT
NO--MAKE THAT THREE.
ONE ONE-MAN ARMY TO GO.
OX HURT YOU!
TZOK
I KNEW HE WAS GOING TO SAY THAT.
OF COURSE, WHOEVER WINS BETWEEN EEL AND OX ISN'T GOING TO BE INTERESTED IN HELPING ME.
SO I BETTER HELP MYSELF.
THENK
TIMES LIKE THIS I REALLY WISH I WORE A UTILITY BELT WITH LOCK-PICKS OR ACID PELLETS OR A MINI BUZZ-SAW IN IT.

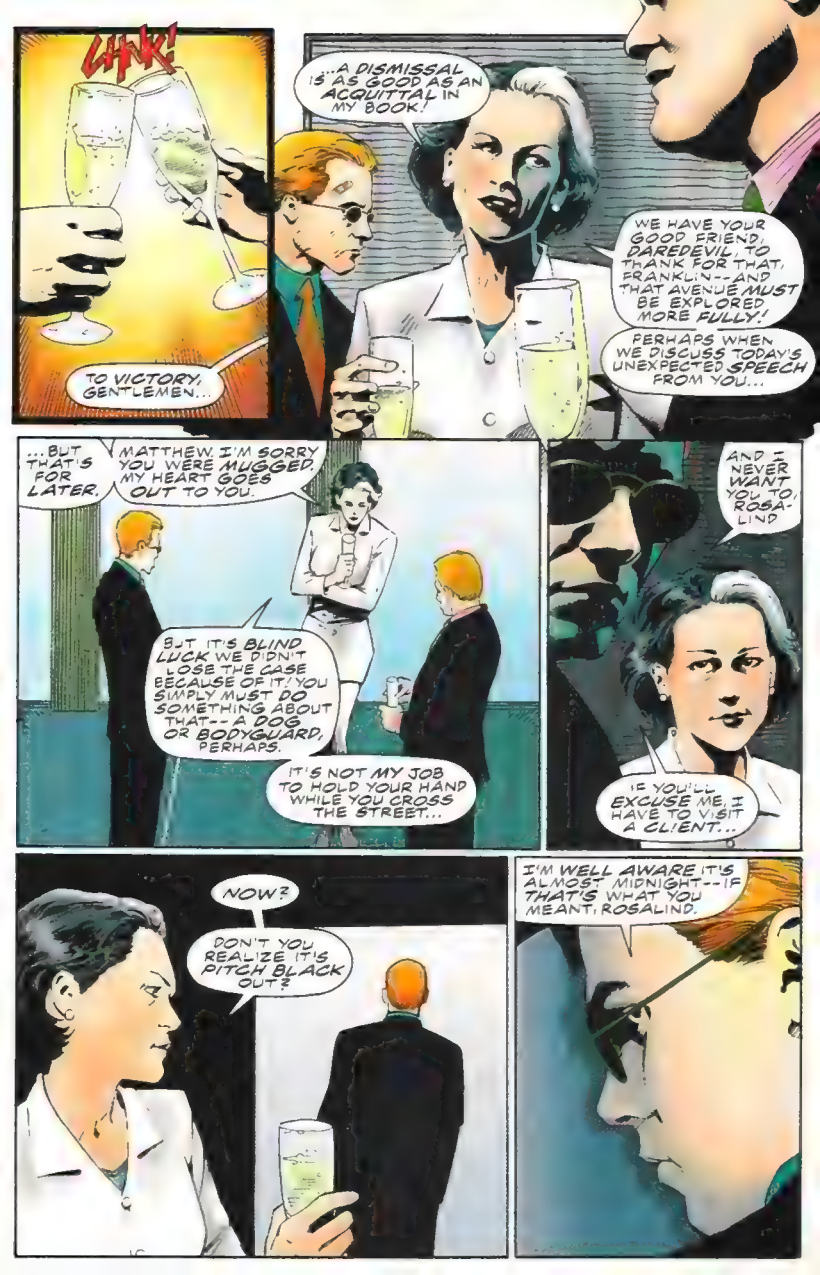
SHREEAK!
NEED A HAND?
...THEN AGAIN, A BIONIC ARM WORKS, TOO!
SPEAKING OF WHICH--MISTY KNIGHT, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE MURDEROUS MASS OF MUSCLE KNOWN AS THE OX!
DON'T WORRY--THE EEL KNOCKED HIM OUT...
ENG!S NICE JOB, MISTY--COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT BETTER MYSELF...
THAT'S OBVIOUS.
YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD LEAVE ME BACK AT HYDE'S WAREHOUSE, DID YOU?
'COURSE, IT'S A MAZE OF TUNNELS DOWN HERE--THOUGHT I LOST YOU A FEW TIMES. GOOD THING I HEARD THE FIGHT...
...HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW IT, YET!
UUHFF.
BWAM!
OKAY--COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF THE ENFORCERS, MISTY? I'M SURE THEY'RE WANTED FOR SOMETHING!
I'LL GET OUR SLIPPERY FRIEND, THE EEL, I'M BETTER IN THE TUNNELS AND--
I KNOW--IT'S A GUY THING.
NO, IT'S A JUSTICE THING.

MY LEGS ARE LEAD. ONE ARM'S NUMB. I'M SURE THE OTHER'S BEING NIBBLED BY A THOUSAND TINY PIRANHA FISH.
WALKING'S IMPOSSIBLE. RUNNING REQUIRES AN ACT OF GOD.
WELL, THEY SAY NO PAIN, NO GAIN...
...SO I MUST BE ABOUT TO HIT THE JACKPOT!
I'LL SETTLE FOR THE EEL.
WITH HIS OUTFIT'S SLICK SILICON-COATING, ONLY A FOOL WOULD THINK HE HAS ANY CHANCE OF GRABBING THIS GUY.
I LEAP...
...HE GOES DOWN?
EITHER I'M BETTER THAN I THOUGHT...
WHAM!
...OR I JUST PLAYED RIGHT INTO HIS HANDS!
ARRHG--!
BZZEKTZ!
AND I THOUGHT I COULDN'T FEEL ANY MORE PAIN.
YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY.

I DON'T LET MYSELF PASS OUT.
I'D HATE TO WAKE UP FEELING LIKE THIS.
HERE IS WHERE WE PART WAYS, DEVIL--THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN FIND ME AMID ALL THESE DARK TUNNELS AND ECHOES.
BUT REST ASSURED--WE WILL CROSS PATHS AGAIN!
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
THE EEL DOESN'T KNOW I'M BLIND; SO THE DARKNESS ISN'T A FACTOR.
HE DOESN'T KNOW I HAVE HEIGHTENED SENSES, AND CAN PINPOINT HIS LOCATION BY HEARTBEAT.
HE DOESN'T KNOW I HAVE A RADAR SENSE THAT GIVES ME AN OUTLINE-IMAGE OF WHAT'S IN EVERY TUNNEL SIMULTANEOUSLY.
I MOVE TO THE MOUTH OF ONE OF THE TUNNELS, ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN HE'S..
FWIPP!
HEY, WE'RE HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME--WHY STOP NOW?
...DIRECTLY BEHIND ME!
MY LINE LOCKS AROUND HIS ANKLE--THE HEELBONE WILL KEEP HIM FROM SLIPPING FREE.
HIS PULSE GOES INTO DOUBLE-TIME.
SNEK!
I WISH I COULD SEE HIS FACE!


WHAT--?
STOP!
STOP? THE FUN'S JUST BEGINNING!
THIS IS IT--ALL OR NOTHING.
I TRICK MY LEGS INTO WORKING ONE LAST TIME AND SPRINT STRAIGHT AHEAD...
...INTO A DEAD-END TUNNEL!
I PICK UP SPEED.
AT THE LAST INSTANT, I GRAB ONTO AN OVERHEAD PIPE WITH MY FREE HAND. IT HOLDS.
SO DOES THE PIPE.
THE EEL SLIDES LIKE A HOCKEY PUCK ON ICE INTO THE S"ACKED SEWER PIPES.
I SUDDENLY NEVER FELT BETTER!
KA-KRANG!

BEFORE BEGINNING MY CROSS-EXAMINATION, I'D, UM... I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE COURT FOR MR. MURDOCK'S ABSENCE.
HE IS LEAD COUNSEL, AFTER ALL, AND, UM, BY NOT BEING HERE, OR SENDING WORD ABOUT HIS DELAY, HE CLEARLY SHOWS...
...UM...
I BELIEVE IT'S VERY CLEAR WHAT IT SHOWS, MR. NELSON--
--MR. MURDOCK'S DISRESPECT FOR THIS COURT AT BEST...DISCONCERN FOR HIS CLIENT AT WORST.!
NO...
NO, YOUR HONOR-- IT SHOWS HIS ABSOLUTE TRUST IN HIS PARTNERS.!
ALL THREE PARTNERS OF SHARPE, NELSON AND MURDOCK ARE EQUALLY INVOLVED IN THIS CASE...AND COULD ARGUE IT EQUALLY AS WELL!
SO, WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY--
ONE FURTHER DELAY, ACTUALLY.
BEGGING THE COURT'S FORGIVENESS, BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL WANT TO HEAR WHAT THE EEL HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE MURDER OF ANGELA PARISH!
AND IF HE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE TALKING I'M QUITE CERTAIN THE ENFORCERS WILL.!
TUNK!

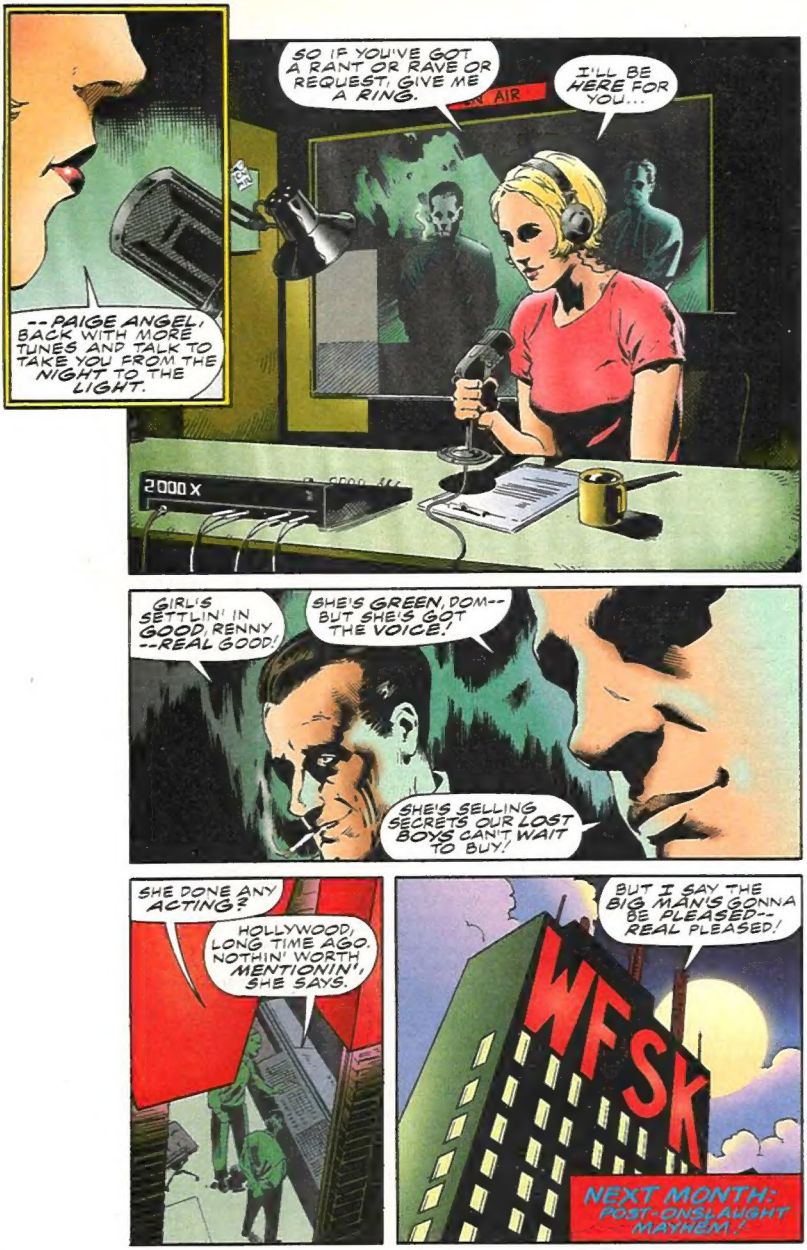

CLINK!
TO VICTORY, GENTLEMEN...
A DISMISSAL IS AS GOOD AS AN ACQUITTAL IN MY BOOK!
WE HAVE YOUR GOOD FRIEND, DAREDEVIL, TO THANK FOR THAT, FRANKLIN--AND THAT AVENUE MUST BE EXPLORED MORE FULLY!
PERHAPS WHEN WE DISCUSS TODAY'S UNEXPECTED SPEECH FROM YOU...
...BUT THAT'S FOR LATER.
MATTHEW, I'M SORRY YOU WERE MUGGED. MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOU.
BUT IT'S BLIND LUCK WE DIDN'T LOSE THE CASE BECAUSE OF IT! YOU SIMPLY MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT--A DOG OR BODYGUARD, PERHAPS.
IT'S NOT MY JOB TO HOLD YOUR HAND WHILE YOU CROSS THE STREET...
AND I NEVER WANT YOU TO, ROSALIND.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO VISIT A CLIENT...
NOW?
DON'T YOU REALIZE IT'S PITCH BLACK OUT?
I'M WELL AWARE IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT--IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT, ROSALIND.

SEE--SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY IN YOUR RELEASE, HYDE.
PAPERWORK, Y'KNOW...
THESE THINGS HAPPEN, OFFICER.
...JUST LIKE A CONCRETE BLOCK MIGHT DROP ON YOUR CAR THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE ON PATROL!
HEHHEHHEH
NOW--WHERE WAS I BEFORE THE LAW SO RUDELY INTERRUPTED ME...?
"...AH, YES!"
--LOVE YOU!
NO--I LOVE YOU!
YOU HEADBANGER! I LOVE--
RRRRR--!
CITIZEN HYDE'S ABOUT TO PERFORM HIS FIRST PUBLIC SERVICE AS A FREE MAN!
MUST REMEMBER TO THANK MY LAWYERS... AND OF COURSE--

--DAREDEVIL!?
YOU REMEMBER ME--I'M FLATTERED!
OF COURSE, I DID SAVE YOUR HIDE TODAY --SO TO SPEAK--WHICH MAKES ME FEEL...
...WELL, NAUSEOUS, ACTUALLY...
...BUT IT ALSO MAKES ME FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER YOU MIGHT DO NOW...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, DD.
YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU "DD" DO YOU?
DON'T CALL ME, HYDE--I'LL CALL YOU.
SEE I WANT TO HELP YOU. I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU NEVER GO TO JAIL AGAIN.
SO I'LL BE DROPPING IN... WHENEVER YOU'RE ...TEMPTED TO DO SOMETHING WRONG.
THINK OF ME AS THE DEVIL YOU KNOW ...REAL WELL!
HEH-HEH-HEH-HA HA HA HA HA
YOU ARE, INDEED, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR--BUT YOU AREN'T THE DEVIL!
I'M THE DEVIL!
I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF EVIL AND YOU ARE ONLY ONE SMALL MAN!
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO THAT WILL EVER STOP ME!

OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
THIS COUPLE YOU SEEMED SO INTERESTED IN EARLIER? I SAVED THEIR LIVES ONCE.
I ASKED FOR ONE FAVOR IN RETURN, MR. JECKLE. MISS REILLY...PLEASE TELL MR. HYDE WHAT THAT FAVOR IS.
WE, UH, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WATCH FOR HIM? NOT LOOK FOR HIM, EVEN, JUST ...WATCH FOR HIM.
WHENEVER WE SEE HIM...WHATEVER HE'S DOING...WE CALL THE LAW FIRM OF SHARPE, NELSON AND MURDOCK.
I THOUGHT YOUR LAWYERS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, HYDE. JUST IN CASE YOU NEED THEM AGAIN.
NO NEED TO THANK ME.
NOW LISTEN CLOSELY. THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THIS CITY WHO OWE ME FAVORS--AND I'VE CALLED THEM ALL IN.
COPS. WAITRESSES. STOCKBROKERS. HOMELESS.
THESE ARE MY EYES, HYDE--AND THEY'RE ALL ON YOU!
IF YOU THINK THAT FRIGHTENS ME--!
HOW COULD I-- I DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF FEAR, REMEMBER?
BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD PUT DOWN THAT FIST BEFORE I JAB YOUR SOLAR PLEXUS AND CUT OFF YOUR BREATHING LIKE I DID LAST TIME.
AND YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER A LOW-SODIUM DIET--YOU SEEM PRETTY TENSE.

HRRR!
BE SEEING YOU, HYDE.
WHOA! Y-YOU OKAY, GWEN?
YEAH, ARTIE. B-BUT WHAT IF HE COMES BACK?
HE WON'T. HE'S BLOCKS FROM HERE AND STILL MOVING AS FAST AS HE CAN TO GET AWAY.
THANKS. YOU WERE BOTH PERFECT.
NO PROBLEM, DD! HEY, YOU EVER NEED US AGAIN--
ARTIE--!
OKAY, I ADMIT IT-- I'M PRETTY PLEASED WITH MYSELF. THE ONLY STEP UP WOULD BE IF RAZOR--
DON'T WORRY, GWEN...
...YOU'VE PAID THE DEVIL HIS DUE!
JUST REMEMBER TO INVITE ME TO YOUR WEDDING. NO ONE EVER INVITES ME TO CHURCH FUNCTIONS --CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY!
NO. LET'S NOT GO THERE.
THE ONLY STEP UP WOULD BE IF I WAS WITH KAREN. --BUT SHE WON'T TELL ME WHERE SHE GOES AT NIGHT.
I KEEP TELLING MYSELF I TRUST HER... AND FOR A MOMENT I DO.
FOR ONE WONDERFUL MOMENT, IT'S AS IF I CAN HEAR HER VOICE.


--PAIGE ANGEL, BACK WITH MORE TUNES AND TALK TO TAKE YOU FROM THE NIGHT TO THE LIGHT.
SO IF YOU'VE GOT A RANT OR RAVE OR REQUEST, GIVE ME A RING.
I'LL BE HERE FOR YOU...
2000 X
GIRL'S SETTLIN' IN GOOD, RENNY --REAL GOOD!
SHE'S GREEN, DOM-- BUT SHE'S GOT THE VOICE!
SHE'S SELLING SECRETS OUR LOST BOYS CAN'T WAIT TO BUY!
SHE DONE ANY ACTING?
HOLLYWOOD, LONG TIME AGO. NOTHIN' WORTH MENTIONIN', SHE SAYS.
BUT I SAY THE BIG MAN'S GONNA BE PLEASED-- REAL PLEASED!
WFSK
NEXT MONTH: POST-ONSLAUGHT MAYHEM!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

c/o Marvel Entertainment Group Inc. 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016. Please include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

THE PROFESSOR ● EDITOR PAUL TUTRONE ● ASSISTANT EDITOR BOB HARRAS ● EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear Guys,

I decided to pick up a copy of the newfold DD when I read that Karl Kesel was taking over as writer, and I was not disappointed. Karl has done a great job of bringing back the old spirit of fun and adventure that seems to be in a very short supply in today's comic market. All the snappy banter with Spider-Man was well done, and harkened back to the good old Lee days (Stan, that is) while maintaining a strong continuity of more recent events, like the cloning of Parker and the disappearance of Murdock. I got a big kick out of all of Matt's friends trying to cover for him as he changed into costume, none of them realizing the others already knew of his dual identity! Pretty sharp writing.

I also liked the return of Karen and Foggy. I admit I haven't really followed this title much since Frank Miller's last run about ten years ago (!), but I remember those two characters fondly. The return of Matt's sly sense of humor is also quite welcome; I like the occasional grim and gritty tone as much as anyone, but these days it seems there's no real alternative to the "dark avenger" stories, and those, like any other overdone genre, get pretty old eventually.

Karl seems to have a real strong sense of Marvel history. He brought back a lot of great old memories in his (far too short) run on FANTASTIC FOUR 2099, and he displays the same reverence for the classic Marvel days here, with his use of character and humor. I hope he's around for a while; it's nice to feel that old familiar feel of escapism, where everything isn't always so blasted heavy and doom-laden.

The Shooter wasn't too heavy a villain, but that was in sync with the tone of the story. I loved the ribbing Spider-Man and DD gave each other during the fight; they both recognized that the Shooter wasn't that much of a threat, and decided to have a little fun with each other while taking him on.

The Cary Nord art is very well done. There's a real vibrancy to the characters and the action. And I appreciate the care taken to make sure all male/female characters don't have the same basic facial structure. That's a real pet peeve of mine, and it's nice to see some real care going into this important detail. Oh, and is it just me or does Karen look a lot like Mira Sorvino on page six?

I hope you'll be able to keep the current creative team for quite a while. This title is a real gas, and it's really nice to be able to feel like a kid again.

Thanks again!

Michael J. Miller
513 Monroe St. Box 404
Hanover, IL 61041

Thanks, Michael. We're glad that you and scores of other readers have enjoyed the new direction that DAREDEVIL is taking, courtesy of the highly talented Karl Kesel, Cary Nord, and Matt Ryan.

Dear Editors Without Fear,

Well, I have to admit that the current "new direction" (as opposed to some others in the comic book world of late) actually looks promising. Cary Nord's pencils have improved drastically since I first saw his work. Rather nice stuff, and with a style all its own. I was surprised to see Larry Hama credited with layouts, since he hasn't done that much in the way of art in the last fifteen years. It's nice to see him back. If a guest artist is ever needed, Hama is one person you should ask.

I like how Daredevil has been facing foes he normally doesn't encounter. The new Mastermind appeared in #352, and Pyro in the current issue. Then there is Hyde, who Karl Kesel is reportedly shaping to be Daredevil's main adversary. I think that is a good idea. In the past, DD fought wimps like Stiltman, Matador, and Birdman, or he encountered Mephisto and Blackheart, who were way out of his league. Hyde will make a good nemesis for Daredevil, especially since Hyde's now been given an overhaul in terms of appearance, making him look much deadlier.

Speaking of villains, there are a few I would enjoy seeing in these pages. First of all, use Arcade. Issue #352 indicated that he might be showing up soon. Perhaps you should have the Kingpin or the Rose hire him. I would enjoy seeing DD take a romp through Murderworld. Additionally, how about Baron Strucker, Taskmaster, Vulture, the new Doctor Octopus, the Hand, and Hobgoblin? Absolutely no appearances by Venom or Carnage, please (or any other living costumes for that matter)!

Thank you for your time and PLEASE keep the current creative team.

Ben Herman
14 Ramapo Trail
Harrison, NY 10528

We'll take your list of villains into consideration, Ben. There will be a return of some classic, unexpected villains. We guarantee you won't be able to guess who pops up next issue — guarantee!

Issues #359-60 will feature a classic villain from another mighty book. And Karl is busy planning a return of the Gladiator. Get your wrist-saws sharpened!

Dear Devil's Advocates,

You've got me hooked. I admit it. Recently, on a whim, I picked up an issue of DD, wary after all the "grim and gritty" nonsense that was so touted last year or so. I had tried a couple of issues of the "Fall From Grace" storyline, but found them lacking. The art was unclear, the characters flat, and on the whole it was just uninspiring to read. When I tried again just a few issues ago, I was more than pleasantly surprised at what I found. Real characters, clear storytelling, and, horror of horrors, a fun and interesting storyline. Kesel, Nord, and Ryan have presented me with what I have been looking for from Marvel for a while: an entertaining, non-angstful comic. I went directly to a local convention and struck gold, bringing home almost the entire run from #153 to the present.

As for the story, it looks like Karen's getting herself into trouble again; I hope she isn't going to do something stupid as getting into the "movies" again. It'd be nice to see her stronger for her troubles rather than running back to them.

Great job, guys! You've converted a new reader.

Pam Smith
88 Beechwood Rd.
Lincroft, NJ 07738

Glad to have you aboard, Pam. Hope you enjoy the ride. The best is yet to come...we promise!

NEXT ISSUE:

The Juggernaut attacks! Onslaught returns?! Can it be? All is *not* what it seems! Penciler extraordinaire Pascual Ferry lends a hand while Karl, Cary and Matt catch their breath.